

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-50. (cancelled)

51. (currently amended) The device of claim 50 67, wherein the collection strip comprises a capillary matrix adapted for rapid wicking of fluid from a fluid source to the assay strip.

52. (currently amended) The device of claim 50 67, wherein the fluid source is an oral cavity.

53. (currently amended) The device of claim 50 67, wherein the ~~second end collection strip protrudes from the housing and~~ is one of a paddle-shape and substantially bulbous shape.

54. (previously presented) A device for assay of oral fluid, comprising:
an assay portion housing a lateral flow assay strip, the assay strip containing at least one reagent that is used to detect one of the presence and absence of at least one analyte in a fluid; and
a neck portion extending from the assay portion, the neck portion forming a channel for delivery of fluid to the assay strip, the channel being defined by a first, narrow part proximal to the assay portion and a second part including an opening for receiving the oral fluid, wherein the second part includes a channel width that is substantially wider than the channel width at the narrow end;
a collection strip in fluid communication with the lateral assay strip, the collection strip having a first portion disposed within the channel and a second portion protruding outwardly from the neck portion opening; and
a blocking strip coupled between and in flow communication with the lateral flow assay strip and the collection strip.

55. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the wicking member second portion is paddle shaped.

56. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the width of the neck portion tapers from the opening width to the narrow end width.

57. (withdrawn) A method for rapid collection and assay of oral fluids, comprising the steps of

forming an assay device including a lateral flow assay strip, a capillary matrix in fluid communication with the assay strip, and a body for housing the assay strip, wherein at least a portion of the capillary matrix protrudes outwardly from the assay device;

placing the assay device in an oral cavity;

removing the assay device from the oral cavity; and

reading the test results.

58. (currently amended) The device of claim 50 ~~67~~, wherein the lateral flow assay strip is an immunochromatography strip.

59. (cancelled)

60. (currently amended) The device of claim 50 ~~67~~, wherein the reagent is ~~an~~ a immunospecific binding partner which bears a detectable label.

61. (previously presented) The device of claim 60, wherein the reagent is an enzyme labeled binding partner.

62. (currently amended) The device of claim 50 ~~67~~, wherein the reagent comprises one of an antigen and an antibody.

63. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the blocking strip contains at least one blocking agent or a buffer.

64. (cancelled)

65. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the collection strip is adsorbent.
66. (cancelled)
67. (new) A device for assay of antibodies in oral fluids, comprising:
a housing and a strip, the strip comprising a collection strip for collecting an oral fluid sample in fluid communication with a lateral flow assay strip,
wherein the lateral flow assay strip:
 - is contained substantially within the housing,
 - contains at least one blocking agent or at least one buffer to adjust pH of the oral fluid sample,
 - contains at least one reagent used to detect the presence or absence of at least one type of antibody in the oral fluid sample, and
 - contains one or more zones that indicate the presence or absence of the type of antibody in the oral fluid sample.
68. (new) The device of claim 67, further comprising a blocking strip coupled between and in flow communication with the collection strip and the lateral flow assay strip.
69. (new) The device of claim 68, wherein the blocking strip contains the blocking agent or the buffer.
70. (new) The device of claim 69, wherein the buffer is to adjust pH of the oral fluid sample.
71. (new) The device of claim 69, wherein the lateral flow assay strip further comprising conjugate strip coupled between and in flow communication with the blocking strip and the lateral flow assay strip, wherein the conjugate strip contains a labeled binding partner for at least one type of antibody in the oral fluid.

72. (new) The device of claim 67, wherein the lateral flow assay strip further comprising conjugate strip coupled between and in flow communication with the collection strip and the lateral flow assay strip, wherein the conjugate strip contains a labeled binding partner for at least one type of antibody in the oral fluid.
73. (new) The device of claim 67, wherein at least one antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to HIV, antibodies to HTLV, antibodies to Helicobacter pylori, antibodies to hepatitis, antibodies to measles, antibodies to mumps, antibodies to rubella, cotinine, cocaine, benzoylecgonine, benzodiazepine, tetrahydrocannabinol, nicotine, ethanol theophylline, phenytoin, acetaminophen, lithium, diazepam, nortriptyline, secobarbital, phenobarbital, theophylline, testosterone, estradiol, 17-hydroxyprogesterone, progesterone, thyroxine, thyroid stimulating hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, luteinizing hormone, transforming growth factor alpha, epidermal growth factor, insulin-like growth factor I and II, growth hormone release inhibiting factor, IGA and sex hormone binding globulin and other analytes including glucose, cholesterol, caffeine, cholesterol, corticosteroid binding globulin, PSA, or DHEA binding glycoprotein, or combinations thereof.
74. (new) The device of claim 67, wherein at least one antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to HIV.
75. (new) The device of claim 67, wherein at least one antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to Hepatitis.
76. (new) The device of claim 71, wherein at least one antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to HIV, antibodies to HTLV, antibodies to Helicobacter pylori, antibodies to hepatitis, antibodies to measles, antibodies to mumps, antibodies to rubella, cotinine, cocaine, benzoylecgonine, benzodiazepine, tetrahydrocannabinol, nicotine, ethanol theophylline, phenytoin, acetaminophen, lithium, diazepam, nortriptyline, secobarbital, phenobarbital, theophylline, testosterone, estradiol, 17-hydroxyprogesterone, progesterone, thyroxine, thyroid stimulating hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, luteinizing hormone, transforming growth factor alpha, epidermal growth factor, insulin-like growth factor I and II, growth hormone release inhibiting factor, IGA and sex hormone binding globulin and

other analytes including glucose, cholesterol, caffeine, cholesterol, corticosteroid binding globulin, PSA, or DHEA binding glycoprotein, or combinations thereof.

77. (new) The device of claim 71, wherein at least one antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to HIV.
78. (new) The device of claim 71, wherein at least one antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies to Hepatitis.
79. (new) A kit for the detection of antibodies in oral fluids comprising:

an device of claim 67; and separately
a buffer, reagent, or detection reagent for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid.
80. (new) A kit for the detection of antibodies in oral fluids comprising:

an device of claim 71; and separately
a buffer, reagent, or detection reagent for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid.